



*Back to the gridiron*

Sophomore Bobby Doxon (right in left photo) practiced his blocking against a teammate during the Cowboys' first practice session Monday morning. Two Cowboys (above) practiced taking handoffs under the eye of Coach Jon McLean during a drill later that same session.

Photos by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News



# Coaches drill their teams for fall sports season

By Greg Stover

*The Goodland Star-News*  
Monday was the first day of sports practice for the fall season, and the Cowboys and Cowgirls were out in force.

Coach Wally Hansen returns for his sixth season as the Cowgirls' tennis coach. He started his first practice at 7:30 a.m. Monday with six players.

Hansen has five players returning from last year's squad: seniors Kali

Rietcheck and Megan Stefan, and juniors Sandy Johnson, Jena McCall and Jillian Parker.

The new face on the courts belongs to freshman Shawna Webster.

The Cowgirls lead off the interscholastic competition heading to a meet in Cimarron on Thursday, Aug. 25, followed by one in Phillipsburg that next Tuesday.

Coaches Don Smith and Richard Schwasinger are back guiding both the boys and girls cross country

teams. Both open their campaigns with the only home event on the schedule on Thursday, Sept. 1, at the Goodland Invitational at Sugar Hills Golf Club.

Guiding the Cowgirls golf team again this season is Coach Connie Livengood. The team's first practice was Monday afternoon at Sugar Hills.

Two of Livengood's former players will be playing in college this fall: Jessica Osborn is in her second

season at Dodge City Community College and Bailee Guyer will be part of Colby Community College's new golf team.

The Cowgirls also open their season on Sept. 1 at the Big Creek Golf Club in WaKeeney with Trego Community High as the host.

Coach Jon McLean is back for his second season leading the Cowboys football team.

Assisting him again this year are J.D. Hooper, as the defensive coordinator;

Jason Hickson, receivers and defensive ends; and Dylan Warden, offensive and defensive lines.

McLean hopes to add another assistant coach who will work primarily with the junior varsity and freshman teams.

Fifty-four players showed up Monday morning to start getting ready.

The Hoxie Indians visit Cowboys Stadium on Friday, Sept. 2, for the season opener.

Coach Jerry McKee held his first volleyball practice Monday morning, putting 28 Cowgirls through their paces.

McKee will be assisted this year by Karla Jimenez, whose husband Steve is the Cowboys baseball coach.

The team begins its season on Tuesday, Sept. 6, in Max Jones Fieldhouse with a home quadrangular meet with Thomas More Prep-Marian, Hays High and Burlington.



Members of the Cowboys and Cowgirls cross country teams ran north on Cherry Avenue Monday morning on their first practice of the season. Photo by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

## Cowboys and Cowgirls hit the ground running

Goodland High cross country coach Don Smith got right down to business at 7 a.m. Monday with the first practice for the Cowboys and Cowgirls.

Five boys and seven girls showed up, and after going through their stretching exercises, they went out on their first practice run of the season.

The runners were not done for the day. Their coaches had them "on the road" again that afternoon.

Smith, back for his 27th season coaching both teams, is assisted again this year by Richard Schwasinger. The two have worked together for more than 20 years. Schwasinger also will coach both cross country teams at Grant Junior High for the ninth straight year.

Junior Kerek Mason returns for his third season with the Cowboys. He kept busy this summer by running competitively, most recently at the 16th annual Sunflower State Games in Topeka on July 22-23.

There he won the gold medal in the 17-18 year old men's 800-meter run with a time of 2 minutes, 9.87 seconds.

Mason earned silver medals for second in the 17-18 men's 1,500-meters and the 15-16 boys 3,000.

Mason's father Jeff said by rule Kerek, who is 16, was supposed to compete based upon his age as of Dec. 31, 2005, but before for the 3,000-meter run, officials put him in the 15-16 age group.

Other Cowboys back this season are senior Brandon Zelfer and Toby Hurst.

New faces on the team are sophomore Chris Geeseka and Sharon Springs freshman Cody Bussen.

For the Cowgirls, seniors Tiffany Thomas is back for her fourth season, as is Sharon Springs senior Kalie Smith.

Returning for her third season is junior Whitney Dautel.

Freshman joining the team are

Hannah Blake, Cassie Cooper, Brittany Medrano and Hollie Langley. All four ran well for the eighth-grade Lady Mustangs last year, said Schwasinger.

Senior Chelsea Ontiveroz will be the manager for both teams again this year.

Goodland's first competition is the Goodland Invitational on Thursday, Sept. 1, at Sugar Hills Golf Club. It's the only home event on the schedule.

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